

## **REMARKS**

In the foregoing amendment, Claims 4, 10 and 14 have been canceled and Claims 1, 7, and 13 have been amended to clarify certain aspects of the claimed invention. Claims 1, 3, 5-9 and 11-13 are currently pending. For the reasons set forth below, Applicants believe that the rejections should be withdrawn and that Claims 1, 3, 5-9 and 11-13 are in condition for allowance.

### **Claims 1, 3, 5-9 And 11-13 Are Patentable Over Schloss**

The Examiner rejected Claims 1 and 3-14 under 35. U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,692,125 to Schloss et al. (“Schloss”). For at least the following reasons, the Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and request reconsideration and withdrawal thereof.

#### **Claim 1**

The foregoing amendment to Claim 1 incorporates the language of canceled Claim 4 and clarifies that the file generator “has a function of registering the works of a project and a function of altering a template file which is provided corresponding to said works of the project and in which is written a standard work time.” Support for the amendment to Claim 1 is described throughout the specification. (*See e.g.*, [0076], [0080] and Fig. 7).

In the invention as claimed in amended Claim 1, when the schedule is changed, it is possible to easily re-arrange the respective work steps in the appropriate order by simply updating the schedule file, such that all the engineers are informed at the same time of the schedule alteration and any changes to the work steps. Additionally, as clarified in amended Claim 1, the file generator includes a function of registering the works of a project and a function of altering a template file corresponding to said works of the project. Embodiments of the present invention can modify a template file automatically and can execute the necessary tools for the work steps of the altered schedule (as modified by the automatic modification of the template file). (*See e.g.*, [0047]; [0076]; [0080] and Fig. 7). A file generator, such as the file generator 11 (including a file updating section 11b) illustrated in

Figure 1 of the present application, which manages a database 21 is necessary to modify template files automatically.

Schloss describes a computer-assisted method for scheduling events. As acknowledged by the Examiner, Schloss discloses that “a user can modify (alter) a template to account for the necessities of the project.” (emphasis added) (Pg. 8 of Office Action). Schloss makes no mention of a file generator and does not disclose or suggest a file generator comprising the function of registering the works of a project and a function of altering a template file which is provided corresponding to said works of the project, as required by Claim 1.

Furthermore, Schloss merely discloses a method for making a schedule. Schloss does not disclose making a shared schedule as does the present invention. Applicants’ invention as claimed provides a “guide to running the tools required” for performing the respective work steps. ([0063]). For example, in the semiconductor device industry, there are a number of semiconductor device development steps in which numerous engineers may participate. The semiconductor device development steps include preparation of circuit designs for the semiconductor device, logic simulation, binding check, preparation of lay out designs, etc. The invention as claimed in Claim 1 includes executing the tools required for the work items, displaying the execution commands of the working tools required for the work items, and automatically altering the corresponding template file. Thus, the schedule enables all engineers to comprehend a current (or altered) process because all engineers can view and share the schedule. Schloss does not describe or suggest a shared schedule that includes executing events, displaying execution commands, and altering the corresponding template file, as required by Claim 1. Thus Claim 1 is patentable over Schloss.

### **Claims 3, 5-9 and 11-13**

Independent Claims 7 and 13 have been similarly amended to clarify the invention. Amended Claims 7 and 13 require obtaining a template file which is provided corresponding to said project and in which is written a standard work time and altering said template file when required. (emphasis added). Thus Claims 7 and 13 include the functionality of altering

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a template file when required. Accordingly, Claims 7 and 13 are patentable over Schloss for at least the same reasons as discussed above with regard to Claim 1. Claims 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11 and 12 depend directly or indirectly from independent Claims 1 or 7. Accordingly, Claims 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11 and 12 also should be allowed.

### **CONCLUSION**

The foregoing is submitted as a complete response to the Office Action identified above. This application should now be in condition for allowance, and Applicants solicit a notice to that effect. If there are any issues that can be addressed via telephone, the Examiner is asked to contact the undersigned at 404.685.6799. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees that may be due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0855.

Respectfully submitted,

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